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# 3rd Treasures of Jazz: Vanessa Rubin with the CSU Jazz Heritage Orchestra (2009)

Vanessa Rubin

Jazz Heritage Orchestra, Cleveland State University

Dennis Reynolds

Black Studies Program, Cleveland State University

Michael R. Williams

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### Recommended Citation

Rubin, Vanessa; Jazz Heritage Orchestra, Cleveland State University; Reynolds, Dennis; Black Studies Program, Cleveland State University; and Williams, Michael R., "3rd Treasures of Jazz: Vanessa Rubin with the CSU Jazz Heritage Orchestra (2009)" (2009). *Jazz Heritage Orchestra Programs*. 6.  
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Black Studies Program PRESENTS

*3rd Annual Treasures of Jazz*

**CSU Jazz Heritage Orchestra**

WITH

INTERNATIONAL RECORDING ARTIST

*Vanessa Rubin*

Cleveland State University  
*engagedlearning*

Main Classroom Auditorium

1899 East 22nd Street

Cleveland, Ohio

Friday, November 6, 2009 - 8:00 p.m.

# *History* **CSU Jazz Heritage Orchestra**

**H**oward A. Mims, Ph.D., founder and founding managing director of the Jazz Heritage Orchestra

**T**he Jazz Heritage Orchestra was founded by the late Dr. Howard A. Mims, for director of the Black Studies Program. Dr. Mims established the Jazz Heritage Orchestra in residence in the Black Studies Program at Cleveland State University and served as its first Managing Director, overseeing their first recording project “Steppin’ Out.”

**O**n June 11, 1998, Dr. Mims, as director of Cleveland State University’s Black Studies Program, convened a meeting of professional jazz musicians and jazz enthusiasts, including the late Neal Creque, Dennis Bradley Reynolds, Marcus Belgrave, Dr. Larry Simpson and others, to discuss the viability of Cleveland State University’s Black Studies Program sponsoring a professional jazz orchestra within its organizational structure. In a subsequent meeting, this exploratory group expanded and evolved into an advisory board. The name, Jazz Heritage Orchestra (JHO), was decided on for this proposed professional jazz orchestra. It was agreed that a major mission of the JHO would be to preserve and perpetuate the musical heritage of the great African American jazz masters who were the primary creators and innovators of the art form of jazz. A special mission of the JHO would be to target and educate school age African Americans as well as the general public about this music. Later, in the spring of 1998, and using as the model the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, a professional orchestra devoted to performing new music, established in residence in the Music Department of Cleveland State University, Dr. Mims established the JHO in residence in the Black Studies Program of Cleveland State University (CSU). With this commitment on his part as a Black Studies Director, the JHO became one of five instruments of the mission of the Black Studies Program at CSU: (1) Academic, (2) African American Cultural Center, (3) Lecture, Arts and Media Series, (4) “Images”, a 30-minute radio show, and (5) the Jazz Heritage Orchestra. Dr. Mims proceeded to write

# *History* **CSU Jazz Heritage Orchestra**

the mission statement of the JHO. As founder JHO and director of the Black Studies Program, he assumed the responsibilities of Managing Director of the JHO and assigned the Black Studies Coordinator of Administrative Services as Assistant Managing Director of the JHO. Dr. Mims invited Dennis Bradley Reynolds to serve as Artistic Director of the JHO, a position which he accepted. Thus, was established the structure for the operation and support of the JHO in the Black Studies Program of CSU. The JHO is unique in being the only professional jazz orchestra in residence in a university Black Studies Program or Department. Its potential for cultural outreach and impact is tremendous within the greater Cleveland community and beyond.

**S**ince its inception, the JHO has performed a series of concerts at CSU, Tri-C Martin Luther King Celebration, the United Black Fund Annual Celebration, Severance Hall's "Day of Music", Playhouse Square's "PALOOZA", and the Tri-C Jazz Fest of 1999. An educational encounter has been funded by United Black Fund for the East Cleveland Public Schools as well as a second workshop/concert funded by the East Cleveland Board of Education. The JHO small ensembles have performed at a variety of venues, including CSU and throughout the greater Cleveland community.



*Late Dr. Howard A. Mims*



*Mr. Dennis Reynolds*

*History*  
**CSU Jazz Heritage Orchestra**

Christopher Anderson

Tent Austin

Eddie Bayard

Christopher Burge

Jeff Bush

Bobby Ferrazza

Glenn Holmes

Paul Johnston

David Kay

Tim Keen

Donald Mallory, Jr.

Damani Phillips

Bill Ransom

Dennis Reynolds

David Sterner

Todd Stoll

# *Master of Ceremonies Harry Boomer*

## **19 Action News Anchor (Morning)/Reporter**



Involved is an understatement when talking about 19 Action News anchor/reporter Harry Boomer.

Harry, who attended Northern Virginia College in Alexandria, Va., has called Greater Cleveland home since 1990. He has nearly 25 years of news experience, for a total of 35-plus years in broadcasting.

Harry Boomer is a 2007 Broadcasters Hall of Fame Inductee.

His career began in Washington, D.C., where he was an on-air personality, talk show host and served in various management positions, including two stints as a news director.

Harry came to Ohio in 1988 to manage and program WBXT-AM in Canton. He also worked in public television at WEAO/WNEO-TV in Kent, Ohio, as well as at WVIZ-TV in Cleveland.

While covering assignments for WOIO/WUAB on a part-time basis in the early 1990s, Harry was heard regularly on WCPN-90.3 FM/Idea Stream, where he had been assistant news director. He was also a reporter, producer and major contributor to National Public Radio. Among other things, Harry debuted a statewide news magazine program entitled "Infohio" for the radio station. Harry is the host of WUAB 43 Forum, a public affairs program covering community issues.

Increased duties at 19 Action News notwithstanding, Harry's familiar voice will still be heard on a freelance basis for public radio specials on WCPN. He is a regular guest on the Feagler and Friends on Idea Stream WVIZ.

Harry has served as president of the Cleveland chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists (CNABJ), and has been on the board of the Ohio Associated Press, the Citizens Committee on AIDS/HIV and the city of Cleveland Unity Day's Publicity and Education Committee. He is currently serving as a member of the North East Ohio Health Services Board of Directors and as a board member of the Ohio Center for Broadcasting. He is also a member of the Continuing Education Committee at Cleveland State University.

Harry has won awards from the Ohio Associated Press, Ohio Educational Telecommunications, Women In Communications, the Press Club of Cleveland and the National Association of Black Journalists.

Harry is active in the community, often serving as master of ceremonies at events throughout northeast Ohio. When he's not working (which isn't often), he enjoys talking politics and visiting friends and family around the country.

## *Artist's Profile* Vanessa Rubin



**Endowed** with the kind of liquid phrasing and sheer wisdom that comes from depth of experience on the jazz performance campaign trail, Vanessa Rubin is an ever-evolving classic singer in the making. The development of a true jazz singer is a long-range prospect, laden with learning experiences that forge the voice into a true instrument, rich with passion, deeply invested in living through life's joys and perils; such is the journey of Vanessa Rubin, jazz singer extraordinaire. Capable of employing the gamut of emotions, the mature Ms. Rubin can range from whisper to shout in the blink of an eye; from honey-laden ballads purring like a kitten, to up tempo swinging and scatting like a fluent saxophone, she delivers the goods.

**One** of the surest tests of a jazz singer is her acceptance by skilled players; the relationship between instrumentalist and vocalist is so often fraught with distrust. Vanessa Rubin has never experienced such travails. From the time she joined the New York jazz community in the early 80s, under the guidance of such grandmasters as Barry Harris and Frank Foster, Rubin's acceptance has been universal. Instrumentalists have always been impressed by her way around a song, her willingness to flow with their muse, and her innate ability to swing that music.

**The** list of great musicians who have graced her recordings and bandstands is quite impressive: Monty Alexander, Cecil Bridgewater, Kenny Burrell, Frank Foster, Billy Higgins, Etta Jones, Lewis Nash, Houston Person, Toots Thielemans, Steve Turre, Cedar Walton, Grover Washington, Jr., and James Williams are just a few of the masters who've lent their skills to support Ms. Rubin's artistry. More recently she has completed auspicious global tours with Herbie Hancock, the Woody Herman Orchestra, and the Jazz Crusaders.

**The** range of material within Vanessa Rubin's broad comfort zone is impressive. It takes conviction and expertise to address the work of composers ranging from Ellington, Gershwin, and Weil to Dizzy Gillespie, Carmen McRae, Wayne Shorter and Sting. But all's well when Vanessa Rubin immerses her pearly tones in such a capacious range of material, not to mention her own considerable pallet of originals.

**Born** and raised in Cleveland, Ohio to parents from Trinidad and Louisiana, Vanessa arrived steeped in great musical traditions. After achieving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from Ohio State University, Rubin taught school for a number of years, all the while with both feet squarely in the jazz lexicon on a path towards a career in music. Along the way she played the regional joints and concerts, dabbled in band management, and continued to hone her skills.

**By** 1982 the jazz cauldron of New York City beckoned and she wisely knew it was that time. Landing at the Jazz Cultural Theater and the tutelage of Barry Harris and Frank Foster proved a wise move as it led not only to veteran acceptance, but to numerous renowned bandstands. Among those early gigs were stints with the likes of Kenny Barron, Pharoah Sanders, Lionel Hampton, and the Mercer Ellington Orchestra. These and subsequent affiliations are clear evidence that Rubin is not only singer, but a true musician. Ever the pragmatist, she kept a day job in the New York City school system for a minute, but it was clear that the bandstand would be her ultimate arena.



# *3rd Annual Treasures of Jazz* **Program**

*Master of Ceremonies*

*Mr. Harry Boomer, 19 Action News Anchor,*

- Welcome
- Acknowledgements
- Introduction of Master of Ceremonies
- Harry Boomer, Master of Ceremonies
- 2 x 2 Jazz Ensemble
  - Langston Maxwell, Drums, Orange High School
  - Brian Benton, Bass, Shaker Heights High School
  - Jackson Laskey, Piano, Shaker Heights High School
  - Javaughn Bogard, Tenor Sax, Cleveland School of the Arts
- Ms. Vanessa Rubin with the CSU Jazz Heritage Orchestra
- Closing Remarks





# *3rd Annual Treasures of Jazz* **CSU Black Studies Program**

Dr. Michael R. Williams, Director

I would like to personally thank you for attending the 2nd Annual “Treasures of Jazz” Concert Series, featuring Mr. Benny Golson and the Black Studies Program Jazz Heritage Orchestra (JHO). We are excited that Mr. Golson decided to kick off his world tour here in Cleveland, Ohio. It is an honor to have a man of Mr. Golson’s stature to grace the Waetjen Auditorium stage. It is an equal honor that Mr. Golson views the Cleveland State University Black Studies Program Jazz Heritage Orchestra of the caliber worthy to perform with him.

I wish to thank members of the Jazz Heritage Orchestra. Your dedication and loyalty has been a major driving force in keeping the late Dr. Howard A. Mims’ dream alive. He wanted an orchestra that would work to preserve the heritage of jazz. Members of JHO has worked hard to achieve that goal.

I want to thank each of the event sponsors: H/L Communications, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Comfort Inn, Wyndham Hotel, WCPN, Cleveland Music Settlement, and Black Faculty and Staff Organization. Each has been gracious in their support of this event.

I want to thank all the volunteers who lent their time and talent. Your support did not go unnoticed. Without you this event would have been much more difficult to manage. And thanks to Altogether Marketing for the design and CSU Duplicating for the professional flyers, posters and program booklets. Thank you all very much.

A special thanks goes to Mr. Antonio Ciacco, Director of Programming of Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York for sharing his time and talent with the master class “The Business of Music”.

Thank you to my staff: Mr. Prestor Pickett, Coordinator and Assistant to the Director and Ms. Patricia Washington, Secretary.

Finally, I wish to thank each individual who came to the event. I very much appreciate your support. I hope you enjoyed the concert as much as we did in presenting Mr. Golson and CSU Jazz Heritage Orchestra. We invite you to become a patron of the “Treasures of Jazz Series” and Jazz Heritage Orchestra. Your assistance is needed.

I look forward to seeing you next year!

# *3rd Annual Treasures of Jazz* **Acknowledgements**

*Altogether Marketing LLC*

*Cleveland Music Settlement House*

*Comfort Inn*

*Official Hotel of JHO*

*H/L Communications*

*WCWN 90.3 Ideastream*

*Wyndham Hotel*



**Cleveland State**  
**University**  
College of Liberal Arts  
and Social Sciences



**Cleveland State**  
**University**  
Black Studies Program

*To Be Shared With All Generations and All Cultures*



## **CSU Black Studies Program**

*Dr. Michael Williams, Director*

### **The Rich Legacy of the African Diaspora**

#### **Mission Statement**

To provide Cleveland State University and Cleveland communities with opportunities to acquire greater knowledge and appreciation of the history, life, all aspects of the arts, culture and experiences of peoples of African descent.

The Black Studies Program carries out its mission through the following six instruments:

#### **Academic Programs**

Proposed Major

Minor with 89 Interdisciplinary Courses

Tombouctou Book Club

#### **Howard A. Mims African American Cultural Center**

Bridges to Africa Panel Discussions

Curtis Wilson Colloquium Series

Kuumba Arts Exhibits

Umoja Roundtables

#### **Black Aspirations Celebration**

Weeklong Event of Cultural Arts and Contemporary Issues

#### **Images Public Affairs Radio Forum**

WZAK 93.1 FM - Sunday 6:00 a.m.

WCSB 89.3 AM - Wednesday 12:00 noon

#### **Jazz Heritage Orchestra (JHO)**

Professional Orchestra In-residence

Available for Concerts, Master Classes

Educational Seminars and Clinics

#### **Howard A. Mims Lecture, Arts & Media Series (LAMS)**

Outstanding Speakers, Performing Artists, Graphics Artists, Video and Film



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*featuring* **CLEVELAND MEN OF SONG**



*with special guests*



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Janice Chandler's soprano seemed to float on a warm cloud in "Pie Jesu" Cleveland Plain Dealer "Faure Requiem"

**Friday, February 5, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.**

**First United Methodist Church**

**3000 Euclid Avenue**

**Cleveland, Ohio 44115**

**Tickets \$16**



**Carlton Fellows**  
Artistic Director

**For Tickets or More Information Contact: 216.253.5250**

**[www.clevelandmenofsong.org](http://www.clevelandmenofsong.org)**

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